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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

6

Application Number

10/789,000

Filing Date

February 26, 2004

First Named Inventor

Thomas M. Mayers et al

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

3608

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application | Remarks | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | enclosed are copies of U.S. Patents and a patent application publication. | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Robert H. Robinson
Signature	<i>Robert H. Robinson</i>
Date	<i>June 04, 2004</i>

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Judith A. Powers		
Signature	<i>Judith A. Powers</i>	Date	<i>June 4, 2004</i>

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PATENT



Attorney Docket No. 3608

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)		
)		
Thomas M. Mayers et al)	Examiner:	N/A
)		
Date Filed: February 26, 2004)		
)	Group Art Unit:	N/A
Serial No. 10/789,000)		
)		
)		
Title: ABUSE-RESISTANT CAST)		
ACOUSTICAL CEILING TILE)		
HAVING AN EXCELLENT SOUND)		
ABSORPTION VALUE)		
)		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97 AND 1.98

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In connection with the prosecution of the above-identified U.S. patent application, and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, submitted herewith is a copy of form PTO/SB/08A containing a list of United States patents for consideration by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and copies of said patents.

Applicants' invention relates to an abuse-resistant, cast acoustical ceiling tile having improved impact resistance and excellent sound absorption values. The ceiling tiles have aggregate particles applied to the surface of a wet pulp in the casting process, and the particles

are embedded in the pulp by compression with a roll and/or smooth plates. The ceiling tiles have excellent sound absorption properties with a noise reduction coefficient (NRC) of at least about 0.50.

U.S. Patent No. 1,925,282 discloses a method of forming roofing elements wherein a mineral aggregate material is distributed on a roofing felt substrate which is coated with asphalt. This product is not a ceiling tile and does not have acoustical sound absorption properties.

U.S. Patent No. 1,966,069 discloses an acoustic tile and a method for making it. This acoustic tile does not have aggregate particles applied to the surface of the tile to provide abuse-resistance.

U.S. Patent No. 3,357,516 discloses an acoustical panel having a wet top coating (16) to which is applied aggregate particles (18). A coating (20) is applied over the aggregate particles (18), and then coatings (16) and (20) are dried. The aggregate particles (18) are not embedded in the fibrous acoustical panel, and it is believed that this panel would have poor sound absorption properties.

U.S. Patent No. 3,870,540 discloses a fibrous mat wherein a layer of thermoplastic foamed particles are pressed into a wet mat to embed the particles in the mat. The wet mat having the plastic particles embedded therein is subsequently heated to melt the particles, leaving depressions in the surface. The particles are not aggregate mineral particles, and therefore the fibrous boards would not have good abuse-resistance.

U.S. Patent No. 3,963,847 is a division of the application which issued as U.S. Patent No. 3,870,540 and discloses the same fibrous boards.

U.S. Patent No. 3,968,274 discloses an acoustical panel having a fibrous body with a coating on the body of hardening liquid. Granules of particulate material are applied over the coating and then the granules are coated with a film of hardening liquid. The granules are not embedded in the fibrous body, and it is believed that the coatings of hardening liquid would preclude having good sound absorption properties.

U.S. Patent No. 4,585,685 discloses embedding aggregate materials in a dry-formed web comprising a fibrous material such as mineral wool. Example 1 discloses applying a dry layer of perlite to a wet-laid board, compressing the layered sheet and subsequently drying the layered sheet, but the inventors concluded that the acoustical performance was unacceptable.

U.S. Patent No. 5,076,985 discloses a method for forming ceiling tiles wherein a wet pulp is deposited into trays. There is no disclosure concerning the application of aggregate particles onto the surface of the wet pulp.

U.S. Patent No. 6,228,422 discloses an apparatus for dispensing granules onto an asphalt coated sheet. The asphalt coated sheet is a roofing product and does not have acoustical sound absorbing properties.

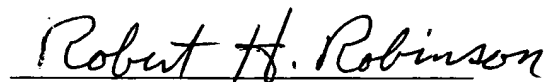
U.S. Patent No. 6,334,280 discloses a gypsum ceiling tile having improved acoustic absorption properties by forming perforations and indentations in the tile. There is no disclosure showing the application of aggregate particles to the tile.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2003/0001305 A1 discloses a process for making fibrous boards to which cellulosic particles are applied to provide slip resistance. There is no disclosure that the boards have acoustical properties. There is no disclosure that the

particles applied to the board are hard and thereby provide abuse resistance.

Copies of these U.S. patents and patent application publication are enclosed for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

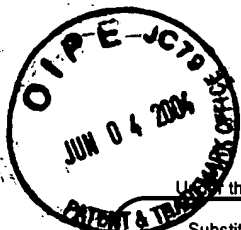
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert H. Robinson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert H. Robinson
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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/789,000
Filing Date	February 26, 2004
First Named Inventor	Thomas M. Mayers
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	3608

Sheet 1 of 1

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 1,925,282	09-05-1933	T. Robinson	
		US- 1,966,069	07-10-1934	M. H. Kliefoth	
		US- 3,357,516	12-12-1967	J. E. Cadotte et al	
		US- 3,870,540	03-11-1975	F. C. Norgard	
		US- 3,963,847	06-15-1976	F. C. Norgard	
		US- 3,968,274	07-06-1976	D. A. Harris et al	
		US- 4,585,685	04-29-1986	J. S. Forry et al	
		US- 5,076,985	12-31-1991	J. D. Koch et al	
		US- 6,228,422	05-08-2001	J. F. White et al	
		US- 6,334,280	01-01-2002	E. Frappart et al	
		US- PubNo 0001305A1	01-02-2003	M. Graf	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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